

COUNTRY Costa Rica

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SUBJECT Reorganization of Vanguardia Popular under a
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1. The reorganization of the Communist Partido Vanguardia Popular under the name of the National Democratic Party is almost completed. The Vanguardia having survived almost a year of illegality has now arrived at the point where it is able to return to a standard organizational setup, publish a weekly newspaper, provide for Costa Rican participation in the international "Peace Front" movement, and attempt to participate on a provincial basis, under an assumed name, in the forthcoming elections.

2. The general organizational plan, together with an introductory excerpt from the Party statutes describing the functions of the various committees, is presented below:

a. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE:

"To form the National Committee, delegates to the National Congress shall select the 16 best leaders of the Party in all the country. It is also required that each one of the organized sections be represented by at least one element.....The decisions and resolutions of the National Committee must be executed and endorsed by the Political Bureau and by all other lower bodies of the Party."

- (1) Arnoldo Ferreto Segura
- (2) Carlos Luis Fallas Sibaja
- (3) Luis Carballo Corrales
- (4) Jaime Cerdas Mora
- (5) Alvaro Montero Vega
- (6) Efraim Rodriguez Vanegas
- (7) Luisa Gonzalez
- (8) Fernando Villalobos Padilla
- (9) Arturo Montero Vega
- (10) Mario Zuniga Aguilar (representing Province of Puntarenas)
- (11) German Alfaro Salas (representing Province of Alajuela)
- (12) Carlos Escalante Vega (representing Province of Heredia)
- (13) Gonzalo Coto (representing Province of Cartago)
- (14) Rogelio Carlos Mendoza (representing Province of Limon)
- (15) Victor Mora Calderon (representing Province of Quepos)

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b. THE POLITICAL COMMISSION**

"Each time that the National Committee is re-formed, in its first regular plenary session, it will appoint from its midst a Political Bureau which will be charged with carrying out the program set by the National Committee in the intermediate periods between meetings of the same.....The Political Bureau will have all the powers of the National Committee while the latter is not in session, except that one of defining the general Party line, which lies entirely within the jurisdiction of the National Committee."

Secretary General - Arnaldo Ferreto Segura (w.a. Oscar Vargas)
 Secretary of Agitation and Propaganda - Efrain Rodriguez Vanegas
 Secretary of Organization - Carlos Luis Fallas Sibaja
 Secretary of Finances - Mario Solis Porras (w.a. Elias Piedra)
 Secretary of Syndicates - Gonzalo Sierra C.
 Secretary of Acts and Correspondence - Alvaro Montero Vega
 Secretary of Agriculture - Jaime Cerdas Mora
 Secretary of Youth - Fernando Villalobos Padilla

c. THE PRESS COMMITTEE***

"The National Committee shall appoint a Press Committee, composed of three or more members, who shall function for one year.....The Press Committee shall be charged with, and responsible for, the management and editing of the Party Press organ, and of any other that the Party may publish.....The responsibility of this Committee shall be collective."

Members and assignments are the same as for the Political Commission.

d. THE SECTIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE PROVINCE OF SAN JOSE****

"Sectional Committees will be organized as the Central Committee directs, whether on their own initiative or on the initiative of the base. As much as possible, the organization of the Sectional Committees will follow the political division of the country into provinces, without being necessarily obliged to observe these divisions."

Secretary General - Carlos Luis Fallas Sibaja
 Secretary of Finances - Mario Solis Porras
 Secretary of Syndicates - Adolfo Garcia
 Secretary of Propaganda - Manuel Moscoa Barrantes
 Secretary of Acts and Correspondence - Arturo Montero Vega
 Secretary of Youth - Alvaro Montero Vega
 Secretary of Organization - Enrique Conde Conde

e. THE SECTIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE PROVINCE OF HEREDIA

Secretary General - Carlos Escalante Vega
 Secretary of Finances - Alicia Campos
 Secretary of Syndicate Action - Antolin Morales Alfaro
 Secretary of Propaganda - Bienvenido Penaranda B.
 Secretary of Acts and Correspondence - Filadelfo Benavides C.
 Secretary of Organization - Jose Francisco Romero Saenz
 Secretary of Farm Action - Jose Arguedas Prendas

f. THE SECTIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE PROVINCE OF CARTAGO

Secretary General - Jose Angel Rodriguez Fallas
 Secretary of Finances - Luis Mora Gutierrez
 Secretary of Syndicate Action - Gonzalo Coto Meza
 Secretary of Propaganda - Carlos Aragon Hernandez
 Secretary of Acts and Correspondence - Luis Guillermo Brenes Rojas
 Secretary of Organization - Paulino Brenes Rojas

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3. Functioning under the Sectional Committee for the Province of San Jose are eleven Sector Committees.

g. SECTOR COMMITTEES

Distrito La Uruca	(having probably 3 cells)
Distrito de Pavas	(having probably 2 cells)
Distrito Mata Redonda	(having probably 5 cells)
Distrito Merced	(having probably 9 cells)
Distrito Hospital	(having probably 13 cells)
Distrito de Hatillo	(having probably 1 cell)
Distrito San Sebastian	(having probably 5 cells)
Distrito Catedral	(having probably 10 cells)
Distrito Carmen	(having probably 4 cells)
Distrito Zapote	(having probably 2 cells)
Distrito San Francisco	(having probably 1 cell)

The functions of a Sector Committee as described in the statutes are "... to be organized in districts of cities and in canton centers where there are several cells. These bodies will be subject to their respective Section Committees, to which they will present monthly reports of their work. Sector Committees may not control more than 10 cells, unless they have at least one comrade professionally directing it. Sector Committees will be appointed by assemblies of militants of the cells within their jurisdiction.....The duties and obligations of a Sectoral Committee will be set forth by the respective Sectional Committee or the Political Bureau, and limited to the jurisdiction of only those cells which it controls."

4. The Sector Committee for the Distrito Catedral is composed of the following persons:

h. SECTOR COMMITTEE - Distrito Catedral

Secretary General - Manuel Moscoso Barrantes, w.a. Marcos Lorenzo
 Secretary of Finances - Fabian Soto Soto, w.a. (fm) Lopez
 Secretary of Syndicates - Jose Angel Melendez
 Secretary of Propaganda - Manuel Moscoso Barrantes
 Secretary of Acts and Correspondence - Ruth Carrasquilla, w.a. Eva Escalante
 Secretary of Organization - Victor M. Jimenez Rodriguez, w. a. (fm) Rios
 Secretary of Rural Action and Culture - Esquilo Monge Fallas, w.a. Manuel Esteban

5. i. CELLS UNDER SECTOR COMMITTEE - Distrito Catedral

Only two of the cells functioning under the Sector Committee of the Distrito Catedral are known to source. They are "Octavio Saenz," with five members, headed by Bolivar Hernandez J., and the "Victoria" cell, with four members, headed by Omar Brenos.

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Comment. It is not known how the committee members listed above were chosen, as there has been no National Congress since mid-1948 when the most important members of the last legally constituted National Committee were forced into exile. This, however, is relatively unimportant, being one of many adaptations to the Statutes forced by circumstances.

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[REDACTED] Comment. In the Party Statutes, this committee is named as the "Political Bureau", but [REDACTED] insists that it is currently designated as shown. All Vanguardia Popular members are assigned a pseudonym for use on party documents, in recording attendance and the like. The two shown above are the only ones presently known.

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*** [REDACTED] Comment. The procedure noted here represents a radical departure from that prescribed by the Statutes. It is explained [REDACTED] as a direct result of the Party's persecuted status which severely limits organizational and other activities and leaves the clandestine propaganda field in the spot of chief importance, rating the united attention of the Party leaders.

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[REDACTED] Comment. From the point of view of population, ideological targets and intrinsic importance, the Province of San Jose is properly considered as a part of the national organization of the Party. The Provinces of Puntarenas, Cartago, Limon, Heredia and Alajuela are presently organized on a clandestine basis.

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